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SUBJ: CANADA EXPRESSES CONCERNS, ANNOUNCES AID TO SUDAN AND CHAD

11. (SBU) Summary: Foreign Affairs Minister Bernier used his visit to Sudan from March 25 to 27 to tie Canada's relationship with Sudan to the situation in Darfur and to express at the highest levels of the Sudanese government Canada's concern over the violence and humanitarian crisis in the region, as well as its support for the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. Bernier announced a package of up to C\$275 million in 2008-2009 for security, diplomacy and aid to Sudan. He termed the initiative a "major Canadian engagement for peace in Sudan." Separately, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) announced C\$6 million in aid to UNHCR, ICRC, OCHA, Medecins Sans Frontieres, and other humanitarian organizations to help those affected by the ongoing conflicts in Sudan and Chad. End summary.

Foreign Minister Brings Carrots and Concerns

12. (U) On March 25, Minister Bernier held what he publicly described as "productive and frank" discussions with Sudanese Foreign Minister Deng Alor Kuol and presidential adviser Dr. Mustafa Osman Ismail in Khartoum, during which he conveyed Canada's concern about human rights and the violence and humanitarian crisis in Darfur and urged the Sudanese government fully to implement the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in Southern Sudan. He underlined the need for swift and full deployment of UNAMID. Minister Bernier traveled to El Fasher in Darfur on March 26, where he met Canadian peacekeeping troops with UNAMID and visited an internally displaced persons camp. On March 27, he went Juba in Southern Sudan to meet officials of the government of Southern Sudan in order to demonstrate Canada's support for the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

13. (U) As part of its continuing peace and aid commitment to Sudan, Bernier announced that Canada will shift its focus from peacekeeping to a broad whole-of-government, country-wide strategy by investing about C\$275 million in Sudan in 2008-2009 in three areas: C\$155 million for security; C\$20 million for diplomacy; and, C100 million for other aid. The figure includes Canada's assessed contributions for UN peacekeeping missions in Sudan and builds upon the C\$388 million in voluntary contributions that Canada has made since January 2006.

14. (U) Canada will also allocate up to C\$71 million in voluntary support for the UNAMID and UNMIS peacekeeping missions. The funds include up to C\$40 million to provide equipment, training, and logistical support to UNAMID, and up to C\$26 million to deploy as many as 50 Canadian Forces personnel to UNAMID and UNMIS, to increase the professional expertise of UN peacekeeping troops, and to continue the loan of over 100 armored personnel carriers to UNAMID troop-contributing countries. Canada will allocate a further C\$5 million to deploy up to 25 civilian police to the two peacekeeping missions, making Canada the second-largest voluntary financial supporter of UNAMID after the United States.

15. (U) At the same time, Canada will provide C\$20 million to support peace building and diplomatic activities, including C\$17 million to support the negotiation and implementation of peace agreements, justice and security sector reform, disarmament, demobilization, and

reintegration. There will also be C\$100 million in humanitarian assistance, early recovery, and governance programs to address the needs of people affected by conflict, up from the C\$71 million that Canada provided for this purpose in 2007-2008.

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¶6. (U) Minister Bernier admittedly publicly that he could not predict how Khartoum would react to Canada's concerns and declined to comment on what Canada would do if the Sudanese government refuses to act to end the conflict in Darfur. He underscored that it is up to Khartoum to improve the Canada-Sudan relationship and that "they must show their willingness." He suggested that one option would be for Canada to send a message by supporting the Official Opposition Liberal Party's motion calling for disinvestment in Sudan, which is currently awaiting debate in the Canadian House of Commons.

Other aid in the region on the way

¶7. (U) On March 12, International development Minister Beverley Oda announced more than C\$6 million in additional humanitarian assistance for Sudan and Chad, noting that "the support to humanitarian organizations that we are providing will help meet the basic needs of populations affected by ongoing conflicts. Canada stands ready to react quickly in the face of humanitarian emergencies - when lives are threatened and time counts."

¶8. (U) Canada plans to allocate these additional funds as follow:

a). C\$3.25 million to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) for operations to assist and protect internally displaced persons in Chad and Chadian refugees in the region. The funding will also facilitate the voluntary return of Sudanese refugees to southern Sudan, and will meet the basic needs of

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internally displaced persons and Sudanese refugees in Darfur and Chad;

b). C\$1.5 million to the International Committee of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (ICRC) for operations to assist internally displaced persons and refugees in Sudan and Chad. This money will aid the provision of water and sanitation services, emergency health care, food, shelter, and protection;

c). Over C\$400,000 to the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) to coordinate emergency services across Sudan;

d). C\$500,000 to Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) for operations that will provide medical assistance and other humanitarian services to internally displaced persons in eastern Chad;

e). C\$350,000 to help international humanitarian and NGOs to meet the urgent needs of the people affected by the crisis in Chad;

¶9. (U) Since 2006, CIDA has provided more than C\$102 million in humanitarian assistance to Sudan, representing Canada's largest humanitarian commitment to country (although its overall aid to Afghanistan will overtake this level by 2011). Canada also made a recent contribution to the World Food Program that included C\$44.7 million to provide food for internally displaced persons, refugees, and returnees in Sudan and Chad.

¶10. (U) Note: as of March 27, C\$1 equals 98 U.S. cents.

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